

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8442

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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VIENNA FOR USEWTC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, BEXP, CZ

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

REF: STATE 160788

1. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND AGREES IN PARTICULAR WITH RATIONALE FOR VISIT AS OUTLINED PARA . (1) REFTEL. DATES SUGGESTED FOR PRAGUE/ BRNO LEG OF TRIP MESH PERFECTLY WITH OPENING DAYS OF BRNO ENGINEERING FAIR AND ARE PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE IN THAT NO WEEKEND IS INVOLVED WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE POSSIBILITIES FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS.

2. AS REGARDS COUNTRY INTINERARY, WE WOULD SUGGEST DELEGATION BE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PRAGUE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. EARLY ON MORNING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, THEIR AIDES AND COMMERCE OFFICIALS WOULD FLY TO BRNO BY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT TO SPEND DAY AT FAIR. COMMERCIAL AIRLINE SCHEDULES BETWEEN PRAGUE AND BRNO WOULD MAKE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING IMPRACTICABLE, AND TRAVEL BY ROAD WOULD BE TOO TIME-CONSUMING. (BECAUSE OF SPACE

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LIMITATIONS ON PLANE -- THE NEWEST SOVIET SHORT-HAUL

JET: YAK-40 -- WE WOULD HOPE AS MANY WIVES AS CARED TO WOULD CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN PRAGUE FOR DAY WHILE CODEL IS IN BRNO. EMBASSY WOULD OF COURSE ARRANGE CARS AND GUIDES FOR INTERESTING WIVES'S TOUR OF CITY WHICH SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY CROWDED WHILE BRNO FAIR IS RUNNING.)

3. CODEL COULD HOST (OR CO-HOST WITH COMMERCE/EMBASSY EXHIBIT STAFF) RECEPTION TO BE HELD AT EXHIBIT SITE OR PERHAPS IN FIRST-CLASS HOTEL OR RESTAURANT IN DOWNTOWN BRNO DURING EARLY EVENING. TOP-LEVEL CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS WOULD BE INVITED TO RECEPTION. FOLLOWING RECEPTION CODEL WOULD FLY BACK TO PRAGUE ARRIVING AROUND 2100 FOR LATE DINNER IN HOTEL. SEPTEMBER 12 (FRIDAY) WOULD BE DEVOTED TO MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS IN PRAGUE -- ALTHOUGH MANY WILL TEND TO CONGREGATE IN BRNO DURING FAIR DAYS AND THUS SOME MEETINGS MAY HAVE TO BE ARRANGED THERE-- WITH LATER PART OF DAY AND EARLY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, GIVEN OVER TO SIGHTSEEING.

4. IF CODEL CONCURS IN CHARTER PLANE IDEA WHICH WOULD COST AROUND \$2,200, OR \$70.00 ROUND TRIP FOR EACH OF 28 PASSENGERS YAK 40 CAN CARRY, EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OTHER PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING TRANSPORTATIONS OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR VISIT, PROVIDED ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR RENTAL CARS ARE MADE AVAILABLE. WE WILL, HOWEVER, NEED MAXIMUM LEAD TIME IN ORDER TO ARRANGE HOTEL ROOMS FOR THREE NIGHTS IN PRAGUE AT END OF BUSY SUMMER SEASON. EARLY MFA SUPPORT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

5. AS FOR AMERICA DAY TO DRAW ATTENTION TO CODEL VISIT, WE DO NOT FEEL IN PRESENT US/CZECHOSLOVAK BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE THAT THIS WOULD BE BEST WAY TO HANDLE PROMOTION OF VISIT. IN PAST, WE HAVE NORMALLY HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON OPENING DAY OF U.S. EXHIBIT, WHICH WILL BE SEPTEMBER 9 THIS YEAR, AND COULD MOST USEFULLY RAISE IMPENDING VISIT OF CODEL THERE. BEFORE THIS EVENT, USIS PRESS RELEASES WOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN GIVEN WIDE DISSEMINATION. THESE STEPS, COUPLED WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVITATIONS OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS TO CODEL-HOSTED RECEPTION ON SEPTEMBER 11 IN BRNO, SHOULD PROVIDE AMPLE PUBLICITY FOR VISIT WITHOUT NEED FOR FORMAL "AMERICA DAY" WHICH BRNO FAIR AUTHORITIES WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE ALLOWED BY GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE. WITHOUT OFFICIAL BACKING, THIS PROMOTIONAL IDEA WOULD GET NOWHERE. WE WOULD CERTAINLY UTILIZE, HOWEVER, EVERY OTHER LEGITIMATE MEANS OF DISSEMINATING WORD ON CODEL

SO THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD NOT BE LOST ON CZECHO-
SLOVAK POPULACE OR ON MOST IMPORTANT SGEMENTS
OF FOREIGN TRADE HIERARCHY.
PERRY

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